

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jackson, WY – The Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation (JHWF) is excited to celebrate the 10th anniversary of its flagship citizen-science program Nature Mapping Jackson Hole (NMJH) with the launch of an upgraded data entry platform designed to enhance the NMJH wildlife-sightings database for Teton County. The new platform can be accessed at <https://naturemapping.jhwildlife.org>.

This improved digital platform (mobile web app) enhances the user experience by allowing citizen-scientists to submit their wildlife observations “offline” on mobile devices. It further enables users to submit photos with their observations, adds entry for specialized projects with custom data fields, improves the ability of staff to manage administration of data on the backend, and enhances the platform’s security. JHWF employed the services of Seattle-based developer Kyle Zinter.

“Nature Mapping is a critical citizen-science project not otherwise replicated in the valley,” says JHWF Board President Bruce Pasfield. “We are excited to provide our mappers with a more streamlined approach to entering data.”

Recently, observations from the NMJH wildlife-sightings database has been requested by researchers to identify wildlife-vehicle collision hotspots and priority sites for potential wildlife crossing solutions. Additionally, NMJH data has been used to better understand the population of the Jackson Moose Herd, to identify species utilizing the Snake River levee system, and contribute to local research concerning the Boreal Toad, just to name a few recent examples.

“By involving hundreds of citizen scientists through Nature Mapping Jackson Hole, individuals are able to contribute small amounts of data, which add up to a large data set,” says JHWF board member Jennifer Newton. “These data then help researchers, as well as state and federal agencies, to better understand the wildlife in our community.”

JHWF encourages anyone passionate about wildlife and conservation to become a trained Nature Mapper by attending a certification training. The next training session is scheduled

for Monday, October 28 at 5:30 pm at Teton County Library. All certification trainings are open to the public, however, RSPVS are required.

To sign up for a training, or with questions about the new system, please email info@jhwildlife.org.

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ABOUT NATURE MAPPING JACKSON HOLE AND JACKSON HOLE WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

Founded in 1993, Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation (JHWF) promotes ways for our local community to live compatibly with wildlife. It accomplishes that mission through focused, on-the-ground projects that it guides in collaboration with federal and state agencies, various other organizations and private landowners. For example, JHWF has utilized thousands of volunteers in its Wildlife Friendlier Fencing Program over the past two decades to remove or improve more than 200 miles of fences for the benefit of migrating wildlife. Additionally, Nature Mapping Jackson Hole is a central program of JHWF, which provides a platform for citizen scientists to record their wildlife observations. These collective observations create a long-term dataset of wildlife distribution throughout Jackson Hole. NMJH strives to fulfill wildlife observation and distribution needs not already covered by agency partners or local research organizations, informing management decisions that favor wildlife sustainability.

ABOUT KYLE ZINTER

Kyle Zinter is a Seattle based developer with over 10 years of experience creating and delivering technical solutions across big tech to the smallest of startups. Kyle brings a strong focus on design, accessibility, and user experience to his development work. He loves the intersection between technology and the human experience, as well as how technology can help organizations function more efficiently. Whether it be building something new, exploring an idea, working on an existing product, or helping you to understand how technology may be able to best help you reach your goals, he is currently available for hire and would be interested in hearing about your project – www.linkedin.com/in/kyleazinter.